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Queensland Health to test dental patients in Bowen and Collinsville

Queensland Health has today been advised of a public dentist who has tested positive for HIV.

Dr Jeannette Young, Chief Health Officer, Queensland Health said the dentist was employed at Bowen and Collinsville Hospital and treated both adults and children in the area.

“We understand the dentist stopped practising as soon as they were notified they had contracted the disease,” Dr Young said.

“We recognise that this is a very stressful time for everyone concerned.

“I would like to reassure the public that the risk to any patients treated by this dentist is extremely low. There are no documented cases in Australia of transmission of HIV from a dentist to a patient.

“However, to alleviate concern and as a precaution we are advising anyone who has been treated by this dentist since 15 December 2005, to attend the Bowen or Collinsville Hospital for testing.

“Queensland Health will also be contacting all patients who had been treated by this dentist to recommend testing.

“Blood testing clinics will be set up from 9am tomorrow and test results will be available within 48 hours of testing.

“Highly trained and qualified staff will also be available at Bowen and Collinsville Hospital for advice and counselling,” Dr Young said.

A 24-hour information line (1800 427 799) to assist concerned former patients has been established. The line will be active tonight. A HIV fact sheet is also available on the Queensland Health website at www.health.qld.gov.au.

The Office of the Health Practitioner Boards has been notified to inform the Dental Board.

ENDS

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